

**- Afghanistan Veteran Josh Van Strander Will Work to Assist Disabled Veterans -**

Goshen, NY - U.S. Rep. John Hall (D-Dover) announced today that SPC.P. Joshua VanStrander has joined his Goshen district office staff as part of the House of Representatives' Wounded Warriors Program. The Wounded Warrior Program works to place wounded veterans with a 30 percent or higher disability rating into fellowship positions with interested Members of Congress.

A former combat medic, VanStrander joins Hall's staff as a veterans' caseworker, where he will be able to continue his work assisting veterans who suffered combat injuries. Raised in the town of Greenville, VanStrander returned to New York to complete a degree in Psychology at Empire State College - SUNY, building upon a degree with honors from the Army Academy of Health Sciences. In the Army, VanStrander served as the senior line medic for Bravo Company 37th Engineers (Combat) (Airborne), serving in Afghanistan from December 2005 to December 2006.

"I'm truly honored to welcome Joshua VanStrander to my district staff," Rep. Hall said. "Josh has served admirably in combat and already made a career of saving the lives of our men and women in service in Iraq and Afghanistan. As Chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs Subcommittee, I have worked to ensure that when our brave men and women return home we stand up for them with the same commitment as they stood up for us. I have seen that Josh brings that spirit to the work he does."

"I wanted to work with Congressman Hall after seeing how much he really cares about those within his district, as well as all of the service men and women throughout the country," VanStrander said. "My mission in the Army was to keep the troops moving regardless of what medical / mental challenges I faced. I still feel compelled to serve those that are in or out of the Armed forces, because I know how much they have sacrificed on a daily basis."

VanStrander continued, "I have been through the VA system, as well as having to face returning home to my family, and leaving what had been my family overseas. I feel as though my little contributions back to my community, whether military or civilian will better the lives of all Americans. I hope that my experiences can help others to not have to fight every inch for what they truly deserve - to better their lives."

VanStrander joined Hall's office this week and is now available to assist district veterans. Those needing assistance can reach him or Lisa DeMartino at (845) 291-4100. More information on the Wounded Warriors Program can be found on the website of the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representative: <http://cao.house.gov/www-about.shtml>